

ABC, Inc.



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Sam Antar
Vice President
Law & Regulation
Legal

September 23, 1997 FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

HAND DELIVER

Mr. William F. Caton
Acting Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, N.W., Room 222
Washington, DC 20554

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

Re: Comments - RM-9005

Dear Mr. Caton:

On behalf of ABC, Inc. and CBS, Inc., enclosed for filing with the Commission are an original and four copies of our Comments in RM-9005.

If there are any questions concerning the above matter, please communicate directly with the undersigned.

Very truly yours,

Sam Antar

SA/ak
Enclosures

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
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¹ CBS has contracted with ABC to provide distribution for the CBS radio networks.

to tens of millions of listeners. In addition, both ABC and CBS hold licenses in this band associated with owned stations for facilities that are vital to relaying material from remote sites to the stations for broadcast.

In its petition, Lockheed distinguishes the 17.7-18.8 GHz band from 19.7-20.2 GHz, 28.35-28.6 GHz and 29.25-30.0 GHz. Lockheed does not request blanket licensing for 17.7-18.8 GHz. Instead, Lockheed properly recognizes that this band raises different inter-service sharing issues which require a separate proceeding to develop and adopt sharing criteria and licensing and registration procedures.

Contrariwise, Teledesic, in its comments on the Lockheed petition, requests that the Commission consider blanket licensing in the 17.7-18.8 GHz band for earth station downlinks to "tens of millions of end users." Teledesic argues that this high-density deployment of earth stations "cannot take place unless the Commission eliminates the cost and delay that are associated with the licensing of individual earth stations." Teledesic virtually ignores inter-service sharing issues and the public interest in the continued viability of the services provided by FS incumbents. The only reference Teledesic makes to potential interference with incumbents is to suggest that the Commission require licensees "to conduct the necessary coordination."

We believe the Commission should reject the Teledesic request for blanket licensing in the 17.7-18.8 GHz band. Blanket licensing, which does not require advance coordination, would

likely lead to interference conflicts that would jeopardize the most efficient use of the band by both services. The need for advance coordination is of special urgency in the case of GSO/FSS and FS sharing. The type of direct-to-end-user service which Teledesic contemplates, involving tens of millions of earth stations, would mean that at any of those tens of millions of locations, the earth station user could experience interference from incumbent FS users. This is particularly true if the GSO/FSS user deploys low-cost, consumer-grade antennas because those antennas typically have very limited capacity to withstand and reject interference on-or off-angle.

We agree with Lockheed that the best approach to addressing the sharing and licensing issues in the 17.7-18.8 GHz band would be through industry working groups under Commission oversight. In exercising that oversight, we would urge the Commission to insure that FS incumbents are protected by placing the burden for avoiding interference on the new GSO/FSS users. Otherwise, the new users would be likely to deploy low-cost, low-gain earth stations which perform very poorly in rejecting interference. It would be highly inequitable to require FS incumbents to protect such devices. Only by clearly assigning the interference avoidance burden to GSO/FSS users will it be feasible for FS incumbents to continue to make effective use of their prior-licensed spectrum for existing services and to further develop and expand their systems.

Conclusion

For the reasons stated, the Commission should refuse to authorize blanket licensing for earth stations in the 17.7-18.8 GHz band.


Respectfully submitted,

By: 

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September 23, 1997

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I, Anne Kromm, hereby certify that on this 23rd day of September, 1997, I caused a copy of the foregoing "Comments of ABC, Inc. on Petition for Rulemaking" to be served by hand delivery to:

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